

THE BENCHMARK

Summer, 2018

CONNECTING UC TRIANGLE ALUMNI AROUND THE WORLD

A Message From The Active President

Since taking the reins back in January, I have come to realize that our time as a young chapter is coming to a close. It is now approaching 5 years since we were granted our charter and reclaimed our status as a chapter; meaning that anyone around from our time as a colony has now graduated. New leadership has taken charge that only heard stories of our time before the chapter house and what it was like to be a colony; our youngest members barely even know the people from that time. Along with this realization, we noticed that it was time for the chapter to reassess both who we are and who we want to be and to create a vision of what this chapter will be in the coming years.

Where we go from here will be exciting as we can now forge our path from a “good” chapter to a “great” chapter. In the next couple years, we want to see continued academic success, greater community engagement, and chapter membership growth into the 60s or 70s. We know that this will require a lot of time and effort, but we embrace the challenge this presents and hope that we will exceed even our own wildest imaginations. We hope that you will continue to follow us as we turn to the next page in our history.



Alex Hoyle
Cin '19
President, Active Chapter

Distinguished Guests Attend Founder's Day

The Chapter celebrated Founders Day this year with a magnificent luncheon at the University of Cincinnati's Stratford Pavilion.

The ceremony included award presentations by Dr. Joni Torsella, Professor of Engineering; Dr. Juan Garcia, Dean of Students; Dr. Paul Orkwis, Dean of Engineering; and Dr. Edward Mitchell, Dean of Architecture. A keynote speech on what it means to be a fraternity man and what we can do to stand out was delivered by Tom Pennington, Executive Director of Triangle Fraternity.



Participants in the 2018 Founder's Day banquet

The Chapter's premier award, the Edward Spencer Man of the Year Award, was presented to Austin Wanek, a graduating senior in Biomedical Engineering. Austin is a former Social Director and Vice President of the Cincinnati Chapter.



Jake Fedders
Cin '19
Vice President, Active Chapter

Another Great GPA

The Chapter had another strong semester in the Spring. The Chapter earned a 3.36 GPA, down only slightly from the Fall 3.41, but up significantly from Spring 2017's 3.20. The Chapter was ranked 4th out of 22 fraternities on campus, and easily beat the all-IFC, all-fraternity, and all-Greek averages. Scholastic success is a constant discussion topic but nothing replaces good, old-fashioned hard work, and the Chapter is proud of the hard work done by the Brothers.

Do You Know The Next New Initiate?

The Chapter is always looking for great new members. If you have a son, grandson, nephew or neighbor headed to UC who would make a good Triangle, please let us know by sending an email to alumni.uctriangle@google.com.

PWG Awards \$7,525 In Fall Scholarships

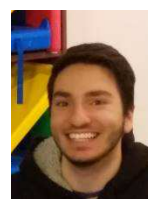


Celebrating a 4.0 at the Beef and Beans banquet

The Park W. Gast Educational Foundation held the Spring, 2018 Beef and Beans Challenge banquet on March 3rd. The Actives had a higher Fall GPA than the pledges, earning them an elegant steak dinner, while the pledges feasted on beans and weenies with a side of soda crackers. The highlight of the event was the awarding of \$7,525 in scholarships based on the number of A's on each person's Fall report card. In addition, PWG recognized three top achievers who earned a perfect 4.0 with gold challenge coins. This friendly (and lucrative) event was enjoyed by all!

Paving the Road to Academic Success

During the Spring Semester, in order to better organize an opportunity for brothers to come together and focus on their academic development, the addition of a new study program was implemented. Monthly study sessions were arranged for any members looking to set aside a few hours from their weekends to study for exams, complete their homework, or even just work on side projects they'd been meaning to catch up on. To further incentivize the quiet study time, breakfasts and lunches were provided to reward our brothers for a hard day's work. Group study sessions provide an opportunity for brothers to motivate one another through the oftentimes taxing act of balancing academics with extracurricular activities and a fulfilling social life. Fortunately, turn-out was steady and within range for its first semester being implemented, and positive feedback and constructive advice was provided by the brothers to further improve the experience. We look forward to the Fall for another productive semester at Triangle UC!



Sam Bouajrum
Cin '21
Secretary, Active Chapter

Fall Work Session – Can You Help? (please!)

The Alumni Board places extremely high priority on keeping the house a safe, attractive, and enjoyable place to live. To that end we traditionally kick off the new school year with a Joint Active-Alumni Work Session to spruce up the house. Not only does this event keep our occupancy up, but it also supports a successful recruiting season

This year the event will take place on Saturday, September 8th beginning at 9am – coffee and doughnuts provided (first come, first served!) – followed by a lunch time cookout.

The Actives want to deploy 14 teams, hopefully with at least one Alumnus on each, to tackle a variety of projects including landscaping, power washing, stripping and waxing floors, cleaning carpets, painting, and miscellaneous repairs. We have a wooden fence to repair, so someone with wood working skills would also be a huge help.

While some of our Actives are remarkably skilled, none have ever owned or maintained a house. Alumni are needed more for their ability to mentor, coach and guide rather than their ability to lift, carry, dig or scrub. We would also greatly appreciate the loan of tools and equipment like carpet cleaners, a rototiller, a power washer, a floor buffer, and extra gardening tools to reduce rental expenses.

Please let us know if you can participate and/or loan tools by sending an email to alumni.uctriangle@gamil.com

Thank you in advance!

First Targeted Reunion A Huge Success

Early this summer when Brother Richard Olt (Cin '78) found himself planning a trip to Cincinnati, he reached out to a member of the Alumni Board for help contacting Brothers from his era to arrange a night out.

Following selection of a date, time and location (Montgomery Inn) and some all-important sleuthing for contact information, a small crowd came together for a mini-reunion of early 80's Cincinnati Triangle Alumni.



Back Row (Left to Right): Edward P.H. Spencer, John H. Phillips, Greg Buchtman, Thomas J. Richey, Raymond P. Wood, Michael Chiasson (picture frame) and Mark B. Geddes
Front Row (Left to Right): Brian Pickering and Rick Olt

As people arrived, there was so much to catch up on that everyone stood around the room and just talked – for almost 90 minutes! We mingled and complained about our kids, bragged about grandkids, discussed careers, and reminisced about life since graduation. The room filled with laughter as everyone reconnected.

Dinner was the time to tell tall tales. The room was small enough to talk to everybody, but big enough to be comfortable. We told embarrassing stories about each other from the fraternity days, and we gossiped about people not in attendance. We talked about the past and future of the fraternity, and we laughed until it hurt. School boys again!

Would you enjoy a similar opportunity to reconnect with Brothers from your college days? We would be happy to help. Send an email to John H Phillips (“Bubbles”) at JHP@PhillipsLawFirm.com. We will track down members from your era and get a room at a restaurant (or a reservation at Skyline in Clifton if you are brave enough). We think you will discover as we have that Brotherhood, even if dormant for decades, very quickly roars back to life.

Alumni Board Mourns Loss of Fred Stave

The UC Alumni Board was deeply saddened by the loss of Fred Stave who entered Chapter Eternal on July 3rd. Fred, a Purdue '62 Triangle, attended the 2013 Spaghetti Dinner – before the Chapter had even earned its official charter. Despite having been uninvolved with Triangle for more than 40 years, Fred was immediately impressed by the quality and enthusiasm of the men and wanted to help re-establish the Chapter. (Several years later he confessed that he doubted that such a smart and capable group would find value in anything he had to offer -- the only gross miscalculation we ever saw him make.)



Grillmaster Fred cooking for a Beef and Beans Banquet

Fred helped the Alumni Board establish its 5-point strategy, and helped the group prioritize and focus its efforts to remain true to its mission. More recently, Fred led efforts to provide “life skills” educational modules to supplement the education provided by the University.

Everyone admired Fred as a wise, kind, thoughtful and humble Brother, and we will greatly miss his participation.

Do you know of a Brother who has passed into Chapter Eternal? If so, please notify us – ideally with a few words of remembrance. Even better would be a photo – either recent or from his college days. We will make sure to share the news with other Alumni. Please send an email to alumni.uctriangle@google.com.

Formal The Highlight of Spring Social Events

During this past spring, the Cincinnati Active Chapter held its annual Formal at the chapter house. Attending actives and guests were treated to a delicious chicken and pork pot roast with various vegetables cooked by our Risk Manager, Jason Wechsler, followed by an ice cream desert.



Actives and their guests at the Spring Formal

After the formal dinner, everyone attended the Formal After-Party, which included snacks, party games, and a fully lit dance floor and DJ setup in the chapter room. In addition to formal, other note worthy events included our Halloween Themed Party on Friday, April 13th with our fall Homecoming partners Phi Sigma Rho and Phi Delta Theta.



Tom Coski
Cin '21
Social Director, Active Chapter